

January 'In the Woods'

🎵 Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but 'The Woods' can be delightful,
And since you've no (other) place to (safely) go.....🎵

The rainy weather has certainly dampened the grounds, but hopefully not our spirits. Despite the inconvenience of winter travel, the cold is generating the much needed snowpack on our mountains that will be of great value come summer. As Oregonians, we are pretty good at bundling up and managing an umbrella in very windy weather. So, let's show 'em how it's done and take a walk on the wild side to Maddax Woods.

Once there you will notice that the warning tapes have finally been removed and access is once again available to the viewing platform overlooking the river channel and Goat Island. With all the foliage gone, this is a great time of year to clearly see the heron nests and get a sense of the avian community that will be returning soon again in early to mid-February.

Despite the bluster, many folks report being amazed at the variety and number of smaller birds that have stayed through the winter and are eager for refills of any bird feeders in the area. Also of note, is the return of a bald eagle couple to the nest along River Street, which was thought to have been damaged in last February's ice storm.

The gardens and grounds, trails and pathways of Maddax Woods are soggy, but holding up well this winter. Volunteer work sessions have been able to trim and protect the more delicate plants and spread good cushion on the garden paths. When you use the trail to Burnside Park, be mindful of the gravel, which is reported by some to be a bit slippery when wet.

The runoff of course is making trail maintenance difficult, so caution is advised until dryer weather allows for resurfacing.

The quietude of the Woods and surprises that will be appearing as the seasons change is a special respite when life gets busy.

If you have reports of special flora or fauna sightings, please send them to us, it is good to share!

The Board of the *Friends of Maddax Woods* hopes that this finds you and yours well and ready to tackle the New Year in nature!

January 15	-	Work Party - 9:00am-Noon - kiosk picnic table
January 27	-	Board Meeting - 4:30pm - McLean House